Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

Claims 1-11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (new): An ejector for ejecting molded articles from a mold, the ejector comprising:

an elongated, steel shank having an article-engaging end and a head end; and,

a substantially uniform pre-coating including nickel, phosphorus and polytetrafluoroethylene having a thickness of between about 0.00004 and about 0.001 inch over the steel shank applied prior to cutting of the article-engaging end of the shank to shorten the shank to a desired length and deburring of the peripheral edge of the cut shank, the pre-coating remaining substantially intact at the peripheral edge of the cut shank end and providing low friction reciprocal sliding of the shank within the mold after cutting and deburring.

Claim 13 (new): An ejector in accordance with Claim 12 wherein the pre-coating includes about 80-83% by weight nickel, about 1-11% by weight phosphorus, and about 8-9% by weight polytetrafluoroethylene.

Claim 14 (new): An ejector in accordance with Claim 12 wherein the ejector is an ejector pin.

Claim 15 (new): An ejector in accordance with Claim 12 wherein the ejector is an ejector sleeve.

Claim 16 (new): An ejector in accordance with Claim 12 wherein the ejector is an ejector blade.

Claim 17 (new): An ejector in accordance with Claim 12 wherein the ejector is a lifter blade.

Claim 18 (new): An ejector in accordance with Claim 12 wherein the pre-coating is between about 0.0001 and 0.00001 inches thick.

Claim 19 (new): In a mold for molding articles, a combination comprising:

a first mold portion; a second mold portion; said first and second mold portions forming an article-defining cavity therebetween when brought together;

one of said first and second mold portions having an ejector-receiving bore in

communication with said article-defining cavity;

an ejector having an article-engaging end and a head end being disposed in the bore for reciprocal movement of the ejector between an extended position in which the article-engaging end extends into the article-defining cavity to eject molded articles and a retracted position in which the article-engaging end of the ejector is disposed outwardly of the article-defining cavity;

and said ejector having a substantially uniform, lubricious pre-coating including nickel, phosphorus and polytetrafluoroethylene with a thickness of less than approximately 0.001 inch applied prior to cutting of the article-engaging end of the ejector to shorten the ejector to a desired length and deburring of the peripheral edge of said ejector to provide dry lubrication of the ejector for low friction reciprocal movement of the ejector within the bore between said extended and retracted positions.

Claim 20 (new): The combination in accordance with claim 19 in which the thickness selected for the lubricious pre-coating facilitates cutting of the article-engaging end of the ejector and deburring of the cut end with the coating remaining substantially intact at the cut and deburred end of the ejector.

Claim 21 (new): An ejector in accordance with Claim 19 wherein the pre-coating includes between about 80-83% by weight nickel, about 1-11% by weight phosphorus and about 8-9 % by weight polytetrafluoroethylene.

Claim 22 (new): An ejector in accordance with Claim 19 wherein the ejector is an ejector pin.

Claim 23 (new): An ejector in accordance with Claim 19 wherein the ejector is an ejector sleeve.

Claim 24 (new): An ejector in accordance with Claim 19 wherein the ejector is an ejector blade.

Claim 25 (new): An ejector in accordance with Claim 19 wherein the ejector is a lifter blade.

Claim 26 (new): An ejector in accordance with Claim 19 wherein the pre-coating is between about 0.0001 and 0.00001 inches thick.

Claim 27 (new): An ejector in accordance with Claim 19 wherein the first mold portion and second mold portion are dies for use in molding metal into an article.